



Tuscany: Off the Beaten Path with Larry & Alaina Kanfer

CHR Travel

**11 Days April 22-May 2,
2022 \$4310***

• Montecatini Terme • Vinci
• Greve in Chianti • Supertuscan
Wines • Lucca • Bolgheri • Florence
option • Orvieto • Rome • Become
a local • Many special dining
experiences included

WHEN WE GO off the beaten path and explore this region of Tuscany, we will become familiar with the streets and faces and feel like we live in Montecatini. Staying at the same hotel for a

week allows us to unpack and settle in. Each day you can go out into the area with the tour coach or be on your own to live *La Dolce Vita*, the sweet life. By the time we leave Montecatini it will be our own little village. Then we enjoy two nights in Rome before returning.

You can ascend to Montecatini Alto (above) during your free time by riding the funicular (below) from Montecatini Terme

Stevie Jay
TRAVEL



2 Seats Left!



Itinerary

Montecatini Terme hot springs baths

Day 1 Friday: Central Illinois-Chicago-Flight

Larry and Alaina welcome you aboard our private motor coach to Chicago to our overnight, non-stop flight to Rome.

Day 2 Saturday: Flight arrival-Rome-Montecatini Terme

Arrive in Rome and are met by your tour manager and touring coach driver. We head north and move into our home in the spa town of Montecatini Terme. Here we are “off the beaten path” of Venice-Florence-Rome and in the heart of magical Tuscany. This provides us a “hub and spoke” sort of vacation where we’ll have the luxury of settling in and need not unpack and repack frequently. Most of day trip destinations are less than an hour away.

Enjoy a Tuscan welcome dinner prepared for our group. (D)

Day 3 Sunday: Montecatini-Vinci

This morning, we travel through the chestnut and oak trees of the Montalbano hills, and estates, vine-

yards and olive groves, on your way to the village birthplace of Leonardo da Vinci. Here, we will learn all about the quintessential Renaissance man and his many interests: painting, sculpture, anatomy, inventions and music. Later, visit a bakery in a local village to discover Italian bread making, then enjoy fresh bread, local cheeses, cold cuts and with a glass of wine. We return to our home base, where we can discover the local cuisine in Montecatini. Note: if there is a day you would like to have a free for La



Larry Kanfer is a long time resident of Champaign-Urbana. He graduated in Architecture from the University of Illinois and immediately afterwards opened the Larry Kanfer Gallery. Larry has had the rare opportunity of making his art his profession. His interest in the land, and the connection between people and their environment, is a vital part of Larry's work with concepts of light and shadow, form, and composition being greatly influenced by the themes in architecture. Expanding his interest in landscapes beyond the Midwest has lead to “trips of a lifetime”, with Larry traveling to India, China, Costa Rica, Hong Kong, Italy and beyond. Even with research on the landscape, people and history of each location, what truly makes the travel experience great is exploring off the beaten path and capturing the unexpected!





Dolce Vita or a private excursion, you can do that any of days 3-8. (B, L)

Day 4 Monday: Montecatini-Chianti Valley

We visit Tuscany's Chianti Valley between Florence and Siena that has been famous for excellent wines for eight centuries and visit bucolic Greve where we will have a delightful lunch. In the afternoon, we visit a Tuscan estate renowned for its Chianti and "Supertuscan" wines. (B, L)

Day 5 Tuesday: Montecatini-Tuscan Farmhouse

You have a free morning to wander through Montecatini. Join Larry and bring your camera and meet locals in this spa town. This afternoon we head to a rustic farmhouse in the Tuscan countryside. We start by picking ingredients from the garden and learn about the principles of Italian cuisine. Then you are welcome to help prepare and cook the meal so you can learn by doing. We look forward to enjoying the wonderful dinner we prepare together. (B, D)

Day 6 Wednesday: Montecatini-Lucca

Visit another off-the-beaten path town, Lucca, a wonderful walled medieval town rich history and culture. Immerse yourself in the cultural collections at the Palazzo Mansi Museum. Then a local guide

Tuscany

Vinci





Greve in Chianti Arcades

will show us the Old Town's cobblestones and cafés. Then we have Cafe Crawl snack brunch with main course restaurant. Then, see the gardens of Palazzo Pfanner with its lovely views has become a film site such 1996's *The Portrait of a Lady*. (B, L)

Day 7 Thursday: Montecatini-Bolgheri

We travel among vineyards and cypress trees to tiny Bolgheri, population 131. The gate of its red-brick

castle welcomes us to the Old Town and its wineries. Later we stop for a wonderful view of the Etruscan coast and have lunch. (B, L)

Day 8 Friday: Montecatini-Optional excursion to Florence

Today is yours to do as you please. You can ride up the funicular to Montecatini Alto, schedule a spa day for yourself or to join an optional excursion to Florence. Dinner is included tonight. (B, D)

Day 9 Saturday: Montecatini-Orvieto-Rome

Free morning. Drive to Rome via the almost impregnable Orvieto in Umbria. Built on a flat-topped butte of high cliffs from the 1290s, its site was an important refuge after the fall of the Roman Empire. Continue on to Rome. Free evening in the eternal city. (B, L)

Day 10 Sunday: Rome

In our sightseeing of ancient Rome, we see the Colosseum, Roman Forum and the Pantheon. We are working on a few more features and a surprise or two before our included farewell dinner tonight. (B, D)

Shopping in the arcades





Day 11 Monday: Rome-Flight-Chicago-Central Illinois

We say arrivederci to our Italian home, and board the airport transfer for American Airlines non-stop to Chicago. Motor coach to Central Illinois with memories of a unique visit to Italy Off the Beaten Path. (B)

Included meals are noted each day in parenthesis with the initials of Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

What's Included: • Round trip motor coach transportation from Central Illinois
• Baggage handling • Round trip flights
• Round trip transportation from airport to hotel • Touring by luxury coach, tour manager, sightseeing & admissions • Headsets throughout the tour • Tips for tour manager, driver, guides and included meals
• Travel insurance included from AIG Travel Guard's deluxe group program • 18 Meals: 9 Breakfasts 5 Lunches 4 Dinners
• \$111 current total taxes & fees, subject to change • Hotel accommodations • Led by Larry & Alaina Kanfer

Accommodations: (9) total number of nights
Montecatini Terme (7) Hotel Settentriionale Esplanade
Rome (2) NH Collection Roma Vittorio Veneto

What's Not Included: • Tax/fuel surcharges in effect if any • Optional tour and meals not noted in itinerary (for example, Florence excursion estimated at €20)

Cypress trees line the way to...



...Bolgheri





Palazzo Pfanner gardens in Lucca



CHR Travel has been awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise. Our tour designer, Bill Owen, has worked with the same people for 33 years

The old town of Lucca



*All prices are per person, based on occupancy, double: \$4310, single: \$5015; ask if you want us to watch for a roommate for you. • Document required for US Citizens is Passport valid through 11/2/22 with two blank pages; no visa or shots at this time; however various health measures may be required. Other citizens should consult their consulate. • Insurance coverage included in the package price is the Vacations & Cruise Plan from Travel Guard and for coverage details, please see steviejaytravel.com/insurance covering cancellation charges; other terms at steviejaytravel.com/terms which are incorporated by reference. • Price and details are subject to change pending final air fare confirmation in June 2021. If price must increase more than 3%, those already

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A coin in Trevi Fountain & visit Rome again





Rome, at top: The Pantheon; at right: a sidewalk cafe for a bit of la dolce vita; below: the Colosseum and the Roman Forum

